

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 05853 101731Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 DODE-00

EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /143 W
----- 109558

R 101722Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0248

USAEC WASHDC

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05853

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UK

SUBJECT: ENERGY: PROSPECTIVE HMG NUCLEAR REACTOR CHOICE

1. HMG AND INDUSTRY SOURCES TELL US FINAL MEETING OF NUCLEAR POWER ADVISORY BOARD (NPAB) ON NUCLEAR REACTOR CHOICE ISSUE IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 23. SEC STATE FOR ENERGY VARLEY EXPECTS TO MAKE HIS RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET COLLEAGUES SHORTLY THEREAFTER WITH FINAL DECISION ANNOUNCED BY EARLY JUNE.

2. INFORMED OPINION NOW FORECAST COMPROMISE DECISION WILL BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: (A) FAST BREEDER PROGRAM INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WILL HAVE TOP PRIORITY; (B) CONSTRUCTION OF SGHWR/CANDU REACTOR FOR SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ELECTRICITY BOARD (SSEB) WILL BE AUTHORIZED; (C) CEGB WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT LWR DESIGN (WESTINGHOUSE) TO NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE (NII) FOR ITS REVIEW.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 05853 101731Z

3. ASSUMING FAVORABLE DECISION ON PWRS IS TAKEN, INDUS-

TRY SOURCE BELIEVES NII SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE INITIAL SAFETY REVIEW OF PWR DESIGN WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF ANNOUNCEMENT, THUS PERMITTING CONDITIONAL LETTER OF INTENT FOR SIZEWELL TWIN REACTOR STATION OF 1150 MW TO BE GIVEN BY YEAR END. (NOTE: FINAL AUTHORIZATION COULD BE DELAYED AS LONG AS 2 YEARS.) EXPECTATION IS THAT ADDITIONAL TWIN REACTOR STATION AT DUNGENESS MIGHT BE APPROVED ONCE INITIAL SAFETY REVIEW IS COMPLETED. THEREAFTER IT IS SUGGESTED THERE COULD FOLLOW OVER NEXT FEW YEARS ANNUAL APPROVAL OF 2 PLANTS A YEAR UP TO A TOTAL OF 12 PWRs.

4. SOURCE OBSERVES THAT AN HMG DECISION TO PROCEED PIECEMEAL WOULD CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS' WESTINGHOUSE WOULD GAIN TOEHOLD ONLY, AND NNC WOULD BE THWARTED IN ITS DESIRE TO BUILD INTERNALS FACILITIES IMMEDIATELY. MOREOVER, ENVIRONMENTALIST OPPOSITION OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS UNTIL NOW TARGETED ON PROMOTIONAL ASPECTS, IS LIKELY TO MOVE TO LOCAL LEVEL IN EFFORT TO HALT CONSTRUCTION OF FWRS.

5. ONE DISTURBING ASPECT ABOUT ABOVE SCENARIO IS REALIZATION WITHIN INFORMED GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY CIRCLES THAT OPTING FOR SGHWR INSTEAD OF HTR, ON WHAT ARE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL GROUNDS IN DEFERENCE TO PARLIAMENTARY AND VESTED INTEREST GROUP SENSITIVITIES, IS ALL WRONG. IT IS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BRITAIN HAS INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO PURSUE BREEDERS, HTRS, SGHWRS AND LWRS AT SAME TIME, BUT THERE IS STRONG BELIEF THAT TRADE-OFF BETWEEN HTR AND SGHWR SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN FAVOR OF HTR. SHOULD THIS SUPPORT FOR HTRS SURFACE MORE VIGOROUSLY IN NEXT FEW WEEKS, IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT PWRs MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE SACRIFICIAL LAMB WHILE BRITAIN TRIES TO MUDDLE THROUGH ONCE AGAIN. SOHM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, NUCLEAR REACTORS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON05853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740115-0410
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740558/aaaabzfq.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: PROSPECTIVE HMG NUCLEAR REACTOR CHOICE
TAGS: ENRG, UK
To: STATE AEC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005